

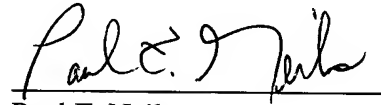
REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 12-22 are added and are directed to the subject matter of non-elected claims 8-11 of the parent application.

Additionally, Applicant amends the specification to correspond to the changes made in the parent Application No. 09/693,968.

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Before the first line the following sentence has been added:

This is a divisional of Application No. 09/693,968 filed October 23, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

The specification is further changed as follows:

At page 1, the second full paragraph has been changed as follows:

During the process of manufacturing various products, there have been used cutting apparatus for cutting a continuously-conveyed broad sheetlike raw fabric into a plurality of narrow beltlike materials and simultaneously rewinding the beltlike materials onto different wind-up mechanisms[mechanism].

At pages 1-2, the bridging paragraph has been changed as follows:

In the cutting portion of the cutting apparatus, the raw fabric is cut in its longer direction first to form a plurality of magnetic tapes. Then the plurality of magnetic tapes are conveyed via guide mechanisms[mechanism] making contact with the respective magnetic tapes at a predetermined lap angle so as to guide the magnetic tapes to a wind-up position where the plurality of magnetic tapes are individually wound on a plurality of reels.

At page 4, the first full paragraph has been changed as follows:

Upon persistent examination, the present inventors have discovered that uniform tensile strength can be applied to a plurality of beltlike materials on the downstream side of a cutting portion by lowering the capability to cut off the tensile strength on the part of guide mechanisms[mechanism] for guiding to a wind-up portion the plurality of beltlike materials formed in the cutting portion.

At page 4, the second full paragraph has been changed as follows:

A cutting apparatus according to the invention comprising a cutting portion for cutting a continuously-conveyed raw fabric in its longer direction into a plurality of beltlike materials, a wind-up portion having a wind-up mechanism for rewinding the plurality of beltlike materials separately, and guide mechanisms[mechanism] for guiding each of the belt like materials to the wind-up portion while keeping up contact with the respective beltlike materials, is characterized in that at least one of the guide mechanisms[mechanism] is so arranged that its capability to cut off tensile strength is lowered for differentiating the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the upstream side of the guide mechanism from the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the downstream side thereof

At pages 5-6, the bridging paragraph has been changed as follows:

A method for producing a beltlike material according to the invention comprising the steps of cutting a continuously-conveyed raw fabric in its longer direction into a plurality of

beltlike materials, guiding the plurality of beltlike materials to a wind-up portion having a wind-up mechanism via guide mechanisms[mechanism] which make contact with the respective beltlike materials, and rewinding the plurality of beltlike materials separately onto the wind-up mechanism, is characterized in that the plurality of beltlike materials are guided to the wind-up portion via at least one of the guide mechanisms[mechanism] so arranged that its capability to cut off tensile strength is lowered for differentiating the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the upstream side of the guide mechanism from the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the downstream side thereof.

At pages 6-7, the bridging paragraph has been changed as follows:

In a Japanese Patent Registration No. 2,579,382 (corresponding to a Japanese Patent unexamined Publication No. Hei. 4-111224), a cutting apparatus having a tensile-strength compensating unit for applying predetermined tensile strength independently to a plurality of magnetic tapes formed in its cutting portion is described. However, the Japanese Patent Registration 2,579,382 suggests no technical ideas embodying the present invention in that at least one of the guide mechanisms[mechanism] for guiding a plurality of beltlike materials formed in a cutting portion are defined as the one whose capability to cut off tensile strength is lowered.

At page 8, the second full paragraph has been changed as follows:

A plurality of guide rollers 20a - 20f as guide mechanisms[mechanism] are installed through each guide passage. The guide rollers 20a - 20f are disposed so that each of them can

make contact with the whole magnetic tape 82 conveyed through the guide passages at a predetermined lap angle. In this case, a cleaner 13 is provided between the guide rollers 20b and 20c in each guide passage to clean the magnetic tape 82 passing therethrough.

At page 9, the first full paragraph has been changed as follows:

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a guide roller 20. The guide roller 20 includes a plurality of rotary rollers 22 that are separately rotatably mounted on a columnar pivotal shaft 21. As this construction, since beltlike materials are prevented from interfering with one another, it is possible to individually independently determine each passing speed of the beltlike[bletlike] materials. Further, it is possible to keep the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the upstream side of said guide mechanism substantially equal to the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the downstream side thereof. The guide rollers 20a - 20f installed in the guide passage shown in Fig. 1 are all formed likewise.

At page 12, the second full paragraph has been changed as follows:

As shown in Fig. 4, a guide roller 40 as the guide mechanism is substantially similar in external appearance to the conventional guide roller 120 (see Fig. 5). The guide roller 40 includes a guide surface 42 that is rotatably mounted on a columnar pivotal shaft 41. However, a guide surface (cylindrical outer peripheral face in this case) 42 for use in guiding a magnetic tape may be any kind of what has a value lower than a value of coefficient of dynamic friction of the surface subjected to buff finishing after being plated with hard chrome; for example, it may be made of ceramics.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 12-22 are added as new claims.